MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

CLASH XII SETS RECORD CABLE RATING

ASHEVILLE, N.C.----The Ric Flair-Lex Luger and Sting-Black Scorpion matches on CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XII: MOUNTAIN MADNESS have become the most-watched matches in the history of cable television and the CLASH special was has become the most-watched wrestling show in the history of TBS.

The 10-10:35 p.m. period on CLASH XII scored a 6.8 rating and 11.4 per cent share of audience, in a 3.8 million homes. CLASH drew a 5.0/8.4 for its two-and-a-half hour slot Sept. 5. The program drew 2.8 million homes, topping the 2.61 million for CLASH I in 1988. The 5 rating was the third-highest in the CLASH series, finishing behind the 5.8 for CLASH I and the 5.4 for CLASH III, toplined by a Sting-Barry Windham U.S. title match.

STING, LUGER RETAIN TITLES ON CLASH XII

ASHEVILLE, N.C.---Sting defeated The Black Scorpion to retain the NWA world title in 9:08 of the main event of CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XII last Wednesday night here but a second Scorpion appeared on the entrance runway as the match ended.

In a U.S. title match, Lex Luger kept the belt against former world champ Ric Flair in 14:26. Luger was about to win by countout when Stan Hansen charged the ring and attacked Luger, causing a Flair disqualification.

BARRETT BOOK COVERED IN NATIONAL MEDIA

PENSACOLA, FL----Former wrestler "Irish" Pat Barrett is receiving national attention for his book, EVERYBODY DOWN HERE HATES ME.

Gannett News Service gave the book, an insider's look at pro wrestling, a positive review. Barrett told GNS: "What I've tried to do in the book is draw with a broad brush stroke and show that professional wrestling is not all Hulk Hogan and the WWF."

The book is available from Fleur Press.

The Eddie-Lawler Rundown

THE ANGLE: I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT!

I saw it live. I've watched it in slow motion seven times. I still don't believe it and I'm not sure I want to see anything like it again. But in the scope of what it was, it was well done.

I've had recent conversations with a key person involved in the Eddie Gilbert rundown of Jerry Lawler with a car on live television Sept. 1. It is an angle tape traders owe to themselves to at least see. Stunning probably is not the proper word for it.

Steve
Beverly

For one thing, I'll disagree with the nut in the WMC-TV studio who yelled out, "Lawler ain't no stuntman," for a laugh. The fact is, this was the most spectacular attempt at running over someone with a car since Morgan Brittany did it to Patrick Duffy on DALLAS the year before we learned it was all a dream. Only in Memphis, it was no dream.

I asked Eddie Gilbert if he ever once considered this was carrying a wrestling angle too far. He said no. It was the one mutual thought he and Lawler had together that could top the brilliant parking lot brawl at WMC in 1988 when Lawler was chunked through a windshield with a body slam. This one was equally as brilliantly executed and, folks, it was not rehearsed even once.

But it still gives me serious cause for alarm. Lawler could actually have been killed with just the slightest error on either his or Gilbert's part. Plus, I am bothered, with the tremendous respect I have for both of these men, at the message this sends to impressionable teenagers who may be inclined toward this kind of act as a weekend kick. Wrestling story this may be but you can't recreate this on a school parking lot and expect the outcome to be the same. And I can envision a few guys in these parts who would try it.

The angle did not build a crowd for the next Monday's Mid-South Coliseum card as the Labor Day night turnout was only 1,100 and that's somewhat surprising, considering the intensity of the angle. Unfortunately, the pressure in a town such as Memphis, the only top-50 market in America retaining a live weekly wrestling show, to top one's self in shock value angles in order to build a weekly soap opera for the arena.

It will be THE Angle of the Year in the United States for 1990 because I don't know of a soul who would try anything this crazy. But I likewise think it requires pause to reflect whether it's worth attempting a situation where someone literally could be killed.

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The Gilbert-Lawler car bump was child's play on the ROMPER ROOM compared to the Oneida-Jose Gonzales angle in Puerto Rico last week. For those who don't take multiple newsletters, a WWC angle saw Oneida and Gonzales, acquitted last year of the murder of Bruiser Brody, get into a brawl and Gonzales pull out a knife and slash Oneida profusely across the chest in an all too grim reminder of what witnesses believe occurred between Gonzales and Brody in a dressing room in San Juan in July 1988. Yes, it was shown on Puerto Rican television.

The comments need not be extensive here. Not only was this the most asinine display of immoral tastelessness, it was a gross exploitation for a man whom many believe bought his way to a not guilty verdict. Clearly, Gonzales has no place in wrestling, much less as a member of the human race.

Pinfall Profile

CLASH XII: NOT PRETTY AT ALL BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER

No doubt you've read the verdict from the Nielsens on CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XII: MOUNTAIN MADNESS on Page 1. MADNESS was the most-watched wrestling special in the history of TBS and second (to the first ROYAL RUMBLE) in the history of cable television with 2.76 million homes. The program grew from a 3.9 rating at 8:05 to the blockbuster 6.8 for the last 20 minutes of Flair-Luger and for Sting-Black Scorpion. The 6.8 was second to the 7.1 of Flair-Sting on the first CLASH but the 3.8 million homes are a new cable record.

Conversely, our MATWATCH newsline registered 147 calls on the CLASH between Wednesday night and Saturday morning and the reaction was not even close to the ratings. A total of 108 readers offered a negative reaction to the CLASH, 34 rated it positive and five called it average or so-so. The 73 per cent negative rating was the strongest backlash ever against an NWA show of any kind. Said Bob Roberson of Homestead FL: "I never thought I'd see an NWA show which I'd feel this way about. But when they did something right, they'd foul it up. If you're trying to build confusion with Sting over the Black Scorpion, why do you have Sid Vicious do a beating at the end?" Adds Charlie Mattos of Miami (who liked the show): "If they were trying to set up Sting and the Black Scorpion, they did it well. If they were trying to set up Sting and Sid Vicious, they did it well. But to do both was very, very confusing. I don't understand it. One I can see but not both." From Al Lazar of Houston TX: "Why did the camera not show us what happened to Flair after Stan Hansen ran in on Luger? It was as if to say Flair didn't matter any more." Said Frank Thomas of Woolwine VA: "This CLASH laid a bigger egg than the Red Rooster did in the WWF."

On the positive side: "I think they gave you a lot for what they had to work with. For a show that had a lot of the big stars and the better talkers not on, it was still pretty good," said Annette Riordan of Jacksonville TX. Added Mike Fought of Bethlehem PA: "We've all complained that they're not developing new stars, well, whether many of them are ready or not, we did see a lot of new, younger talent on the CLASH. Plus, Flair-Luger was great."

From my own perspective, the positives: the pacing and format was fast, a testimony to Jim Ross' production input, and the announcers maintained a strong level of enthusiasm throughout this show. Tony Schiavone fulfilled his show host's role competently and with the exception of one graphic glitch, the production values and lighting were of quality. And I'll agree that the move to younger talent is a positive move we've been pushing, though the State Patrol is better than all of the new tag teams introduced.

Negatives: from a content standpoint, there was only one great match: Flair-Luger. I, too, felt Flair was reduced to a forgotten son when Hansen ran in and we never saw Ric again. Often, this show appeared to be a prime time version of WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING and not a CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS. Overall, it was the lowest in collective wrestling quality of any CLASH (though Paul Jones-Ivan Koloff and Steve Williams-Italian Stallion bouts of the five-match SEASON'S BEATINGS were as weak). Sting-Scorpion was a lemon but the shock on Sting's face after was well-choreographed and I feel that's the image we should have had at the end. The Vicious post-match attack, I concur, made it too confusing on whom fans are supposed to focus their anger. One key insider I trust explained it: "We have three entities to serve: we have to get TV ratings for TBS, we have to build a pay-per-view audience for Turner Home Entertainment (the Vicious angle) and we have to try to build something for our arenas (Sting-Scorpion matches will run throughout September in houses). So, we had to do more than one angle to serve all of these needs." Knowing TBS divisions, that is correct; however, it places the promotion in a difficult spot as far as focusing on one feud at a time. Nitpicking: the Freebirds video was a good idea. But if they're making a "triumphant tour" of Hollywood, why do they stay at a Holiday Inn? Plus, the empty seats in Asheville looked glaringly bad at times.

Those who found this to be a bad show have asked me why CLASH XII drew such an explosive rating. If you analyze the buildup, you can see several reasons:

(Continued on Page 8)

GILBERTS, LOWE ESCAPE POLICE SCRUTINY

MEMPHIS---Eddie and Doug Gilbert and partner Sam Lowe narrowly escaped charges for the car rundown attempt on Jerry Lawler Sept. 1.

After the angle, in which Lawler was hit following a confrontation with Eddie Gilbert and Eddie Marlin, Doug Gilbert said to his brother, "Eddie, I think you've killed him."

An ambulance, which was not needed, was called for Lawler---who had cracked the windshield with the impact of the bump. Memphis police arrived at the WMC-TV studios to investigate. Lawler told officers he would not press charges but police insisted the issue went beyond that. One officer told the promotion that since the incident happened in public and was a hit-and-run under the law, an investigation was necessary.

Lawler and Marlin reportedly talked police out of pursuing the matter, though the Gilberts were not certain they would not face scrutiny when they arrived last Monday at the Mid-South Coliseum.

The Gilberts' grandmother, who rarely calls after a show, contacted Eddie and chastised him for the angle, saying, "You're gonna kill somebody if you keep that stuff up."

MATWATCH Exclusive

PEDICINO REVEALS PLANS FOR NEW PROMOTION

(Since early summer, a number of newsletters have linked PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK creator and former NWA personality Joe Pedicino to a new foreign-backed wrestling company. This week, Pedicino agreed to discuss the situation with MATWATCH.)

MATWATCH: FOR WEEKS NOW, SPECULATION HAS CENTERED ON YOU AS DEVELOPING A NEW WRESTLING PROMOTION AIMED AT A NATIONAL AUDIENCE. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT IT AT THIS POINT?

JP: We are in the process of attempting to do just that. Several months ago, I was approached by a company with international backing and asked about the possibilities of an international major league organization. After several meetings, I agreed to become chief executive officer of a new company called Kongi Sports and Entertainment. One of the major divisions of Kongi will be a wrestling organization.

MATWATCH: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF YOUR BACKERS, IF ANYTHING, AND HOW DID THEY COME TO CHOOSE YOU?

J.P.: Kongi Sports and Entertainment is backed by a company with major holdings in Africa, the United States and Japan. They have primarily been involved in oil, gold, land and banking until now. Now, they want to get into the entertainment field. They're interested in professional wrestling, financing major motion pictures, television series and other forms of entertainment, not only in the U.S. but in foreign markets as well. The head of the financial trust lives in the U.S. and became familiar with me through SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING in Atlanta, PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK and, of course, the NWA. He felt my perspective on the professional wrestling business today warranted some discussion.

MATWATCH: OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE HAD BIG PLANS ABOUT NEW WRESTLING ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE EITHER FAILED OR NEVER LEFT THE GROUND. WHY WILL KONGI BE ANY DIFFERENT?

J.P.: It may not be. This is why we have tried to keep it quiet as long as we have. I have been working on this project for over six months and tried to play it very low key with no major announcements, no press conferences, no interviews because I realize that, number one, a wrestling venture is speculative to begin with; even more so, when you're dealing with the kind of dollar figures we are talking about, anything can happen and until every piece of paper is signed, nothing is definite. This is why we have not been calling wrestlers and trying to hire them, or doing interviews for radio shows or newsletters. We didn't want to go public until everything was finalized. Unfortunately, word did get out and our phones have been ringing off the hook. Because of that, I decided to come forth with where we are today.

MATWATCH: WHICH IS?......

J.P.: The backing is there. The commitment is there. We are working on how to get into syndication, different forms of televised coverage. And just exactly what form of professional wrestling we are going to be.

MATWATCH: HOW MUCH MONEY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT IN FINANCIAL BACKING?

Let me put it this way: I have been guaranteed enough money to do it right.

MATWATCH: WE HAVE HEARD FIGURES RANGING IN VALUE FROM SEVEN TO 20-MILLION DOLLARS. ARE THOSE ACCURATE?

J.P: The initial funding through a letter of credit with an international bank is for an amount more than you just quoted---and I would prefer to leave it at that.

MATWATCH: YOU SAY THE PHONE HAS BEEN RINGING OFF THE HOOK. WE UNDERSTAND A NUMBER OF WRESTLERS HAVE BEEN CONTACTING YOU. COULD YOU DISCLOSE ANY NAMES TO US?

J.P.: No. For obvious reasons, I don't want to disclose who we're talking to but I will tell you this---I have been instructed by my lawyer not to discuss this with any wrestler currently under a contract to any other wrestling organization and I have followed his advice.

MATWATCH: THAT ELIMINATES A NUMBER OF MAJOR NAMES. A NUMBER OF FANS AND INSIDERS WOULD SAY YOU HAVE TO HAVE MAJOR NAMES, ESTABLISHED NAMES IF YOU HOPE TO GET OFF THE GROUND.

J.P: If you made a list of the top 100 wrestlers in the world today---and I emphasize world---I think you would be very surprised at how many were not under contract.

MATWATCH: YOU SPOKE ABOUT TELEVISION. PRO WRESTLING TORCH HAS DIRECTLY LINKED YOU TO DISCUSSIONS WITH FOX BROADCASTING. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THAT?

J.P.: We have had discussions with three networks and have ongoing discussions with two at this time. We have presented them with a totally different concept of professional wrestling and both are very interested. I expect to make a deal for network coverage but until it is signed, nothing is definite. I WILL tell you that I am also pursuing two other avenues that could be even more lucrative than network television.

MATWATCH: COULD YOU BE SPECIFIC AS TO THE NETWORKS YOU HAVE MET WITH?

J.P.: No.

MATWATCH: JOE, YOU KNOW A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN WRESTLING ARE PERHAPS LAUGHING AT THIS. SOME HAVE ALREADY PREDICTED INSTANT FAILURE. YOU HAVE CRITICS WHO FEEL YOUR IDEAS ABOUT WRESTLING ARE TOO BIZARRE TO BE SUCCESSFUL. OTHERS SAY YOU'VE NEVER HANDLED A VENTURE OF THIS MAGNITUDE. IF IT GETS OFF THE GROUND, WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE YOU COULD SUCCEED?

J.P.: Let's take your first point: yes, I'm sure there are many people in the wrestling business who will read this

(Continued on Page 4)

JOE PEDICINO INTERVIEW

(Continued from Page 3)

and laugh and maybe they will have the last laugh. But, as I learned a long time ago, if you don't try, you will never succeed. Now, for your second point: I have worked in the entertainment business since I was 14 years old. I have run my own company twice and have learned a simple key to success: surround yourself with competent people who have the ability to do their jobs, then stand back and let them do it. I believe I can be successful because I will surround myself with people who know the entertainment business and the wrestling business and the 1990s way of combining the two.

MATWATCH: FOLLOWING UP ON THAT, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GROUPS IN THE PAST IN THIS BUSINESS ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD QUALITY FRONT OFFICE PEOPLE. DO YOU HAVE SPECIFIC PEOPLE IN MIND FOR SUCH POSITIONS WITH KONGI AND COULD YOU SHARE ANY NAMES WITH US?

J.P.: Yes, I have people in mind. But I think at this time it would be best not to mention their names. I already have a booker, an assistant booker, a production staff and an office staff ready to go to work. As I said, I will surround myself with competent people.

MATWATCH: WHAT KIND OF TIMETABLE DO YOU FORESEE IN GETTING KONGI OFF THE GROUND WITH ITS FIRST WRESTLING SHOWS?

J.P.: This is the strange part: I am determined not to do it at all until we are ready to do it right. We will not start halfway and hope to grow to doing it right. We will not make our first appearance until we are ready to do it right. It may be three months. It may be six months. But it won't happen until we are sure we can succeed.

MATWATCH: WITH A LOT WRESTLING CROWDS DECLINING ACROSS THE U.S. AND THE SATURATION ON TV OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS---- THE BIGGEST ARGUMENT SOME PEOPLE WOULD HAVE AGAINST THIS VENTURE IS THAT IT JUST ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME. WHY NOW?

J.P.: If we were going to present wrestling in the same manner today's organizations are presenting it, I would agree. But, we are not. For instance, if you have a great idea for a new game show, you do not postpone it because there are too many game shows on TV. You present it and if the public likes it, they will watch. We will present wrestling in a different manner than anyone has seen before.

MATWATCH: YOUR DETRACTORS WILL SAY BECAUSE YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN THE RING AND NEVER BEEN A WRESTLER OR PROMOTER, YOU CANNOT RUN A WRESTLING COMPANY. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

J.P.: Steve, three of the most successful wrestling promoters of all-time are probably Vince McMahon Jr., Vince McMahon Sr. and Jim Crockett Sr. Would you agree?

MATWATCH: YES.

J.P.: And, to my knowledge: none of the three spent any time, or at least any significant time as a professional wrestler. All three were astute businessmen who knew what their public wanted and how to present it to them. All three surrounded themselves with the right people. On the other hand: the list of former wrestlers who have been unsuccessful at promoting wrestling is a mile long. I think that explains it better than I ever could.

OTHER VOICES

By HARRY WHITE
St. Louis, MO

I am open to correction about this but I do not think anyone has done as much nor accomplished as much in the entir realm of the wrestling businesss as Pat O'Connor (I have to put Verne Gagne in there also).

I presume most of the readers are younger than Steve and I and therefore, only remember the finish of Pat's career when he slowed down some. After being an amateur champ in New Zealand, Pat was almost an instant main eventer upon coming to this country. He had one of the most smooth and fluid styles from move to move ever seen.

I have heard two major old champs in two different major alliances mention off the record that O'Connor may have been the best technical pro wrestler ever.

Pat himself had a little Karl Gotch in him by not backing down to anyone on reputation as a wrestler. After the Old Timers' Battle Royal (in 1986), the interviewer for NBC was asking everyone about Thesz and getting an affirmative answer on whether Lou was the best. O'Connor's reply was that he and Thesz wrestled eleven times with neither gaining the upper hand and spending ten hours in the ring in those eleven matches.

Besides the gate record for the match against Buddy Rogers (in Comiskey Park), Pat held long-standing Canadian attendance records against Yvon Robert.

Besides main eventer and world champ (when that meant traveling world champ), add booker and small and large partner in the local promotion in two towns. Add referee and trainer of wrestlers. At the age of 64, Pat worked a 30-minute draw between the British Bulldogs and the Rock and Roll Express and followed that with 22 minutes of a Japanese tag title change. That is 52 minutes back-to-back of fast-paced action at age 64. A year before, Pat and Thesz finished up that battle royal.

Add high-profile local celebrity who lent his time and effort to several causes. Who has had a longer career or done more for the business?

I had Pat as a celebrity judge in a bikini contest finals last year and was a little concerned if the crowd would acknowledge him. Upon the introduction, the ovation sounded like O'Connormania to me.

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TV TEMPO

Sept. 3-9

(NWA/TBS) - [CLASH XII]: Southern Boys d. Freebirds; Mike Rotunda d. Buddy Landell; (VIDEO) Freebirds' "triumphant tour" of Hollywood; Master Blasters d. Brad Armstrong/Tim Horner; Tommy Rich d. Bill Irwin; Nasty Boys d. Terry Taylor/Jackie Fulton; (LPWA TITLE) Susan Sexton d. Bambi to keep belt; Steiners d. Maximum Overdrive; Stan Hansen d. Tom Zenk; (FLASHBACK) Flair-Luger at W. WAR; (U.S. TITLE) Lex Luger d. Ric Flair by DQ (14:26) when Hansen runs in, decks Lex & spits tobacco juice on him; (NWA WORLD TITLE) Sting d. Black Scorpion & unmasks Scorpion, who has red mask on underneath. Then, the "real" Scorpion appears on the runway as Sting looks bewildered. (FINALE) As Jim Ross asks Sting about Scorpion, Sid Vicious appears & screams to get a title shot, then backjumps Sting & beats him w. the NWA belt as he leaves ring. DRAW-PLUS.
[WCW]: Steiners d. Doug Vines/Barry Horowitz; Buddy Landell d. Zan Panzer; (WRAPUP) Recap of Sting-Scorpion at CLASH; Barry Windham d. Reno Riggins; Junkyard Dog d. Snake Watson; Brian Pillman d. Rick Fargo; DOOM d. Joe Barrett/Brad Batton; Taylor d. Bill Ford; Mark Callous d. Rick Ford; Rock & Roll Express d. Dynamites; Rotunda/Horner d. State Patrol; Hansen d. Dave Stoudemeire. RESTHOLD.
[MAIN EVENT]: Luger vs. Windham. NO RATING...show aired after deadline.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Rick Rude d. Sonny Blaze; (UPDATE) SUMMER SLAM clips; Tito Santana d. Bob Bradley; (6-MAN) Demolition d. Jim McPherson/Jim McCrary/Jim Powers; Brooklyn Brawler d. Barry O; (From CHALLENGE) Nikoli Volkoff-Sgt. Slaughter brawl; Bushwackers d. Black Bart/Dick Warnhe; Bad News Brown d. Mike O'Perry; (BRO. LUV) Rick Martel guests; Legion of Doom d. Duane Gill/Barry Hardy; Haku d. Jim Brunzell. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [SUPERSTARS]: Bossman d. Pez Whatley; Rhythm & Blues d. Mark Thomas/McPherson; (UPDATE) Ted DiBiase buying Sapphire at SUMMER SLAM; (ANGLE) Jimmy Hart claims R&B's "Honky Love" album has gone platinum; Barbarian d. Mike Daniels; (From CHALLENGE) Volkoff-Slaughter brawl; Volkoff d. Mike Williams; (BRO. LUV) Sherri Martel in Catwoman mask insults Ultimate Warrior until Ult, who's looking out from curtain, emerges & tears up contract for match w. Randy Savage. Sherri slaps Ult 3 times but Ult tells Sherri Savage has "found LUV" with someone else, then he destroys Bruce's podium & Sherri's throne; Jake Roberts d. Buddy Rose; (From SS'90) Power & Glory d. Rockers. DRAW.
[CHALLENGE]: Shane Douglas d. Bradley; Volkoff d. Black Bart; Dino Bravo d. Gill; L.O.D. d. Rico Frederico/Scott Colantonio; Akeem d. Ron Cumberland; Marty Jannetty d. Dale Wolfe; Earthquake d. Blaze; (SEG) Mean Gene w. Dusty Rhodes. BOMB-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WWW]: Barry Windham d. Jeff Stone; Pillman d. Tim Hughes; Mark Callous d. Dave Johnson; Rotunda/Tim Horner d. Mike Thor/Death Row; Junkyard Dog d. Brian Carr; Vicious d. Dave Diamond; SST vs. Steiners in progress as show ends; (WRAPUP) Black Scorpion interview. RESTHOLD.
[NWA PRO]: Terry Taylor d. Barry Horowitz; S. Boys d. Dynamites; Windham d. Johnson; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. makes Sting say he's worried about Scorpion; Vicious d. Joe Cezana; Rock & Roll Express d. Vines/Pat Rose; DOOM d. Riggins/Diamond; Steiners d. Tim Huggins/Fargo. BOMB-PLUS.

(CNWA) - Bill Jodoin d. Masked Eagle; Lenny St. Clair double countout vs. Don McCullough; Bowlers d. Jason Anderson/Ball-player by countout when manager J.T. Bruce turns on 'Player. Jason the Terrible (Karl Moffatt) now becomes manager of Bowlers; Inoki Sato d. Biff Wellington 2-3 falls. RESTHOLD.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(USWA/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: RPMs d. Skip Young/Steve Dane; Angel of Death d. Billy Travis using trumpet; [REPLAY]: Toni Adams-Jeannie Clarke series; [CAGE]: Adams d. Clarke but Steve Austin/Percy Pringle jump in, lock cage & beat Toni until Chris Adams unlocks it and saves. DRAW.
[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Tony Anthony/Doug Gilbert d. Ken Raper/T.D. Steel; (From MID-SOUTH) Doug loses hair match & has head shaved; (SEGMENT) Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee bring out Vicious Vicki as new valet & she beats tar out of Dirty White Girl; Kowabunga d. Eddie Gilbert by DQ when Doug/Anthony run in but Lawler/Dundee save & Lawler rips Doug's toupee off; Brian Lee/Don Harris d. Tim Hall/Keith Haynes; Jeff Gaylord/Rex King/Joey Maggs d. Twilight Zone/Shadow. POWERSLAM.

(USWA/WMC) - (REPLAY) Gilbert-Lawler car rundown in slo-mo; Brickhouse Brown d. Jeff Rocket; Doug Gilbert/Anthony d. Steel/Haynes; (SEG) Lawler shows clips of Idol/Rich and Joe LeDuc attempts "to kill me" in the ring; (SEG) Eddie Gilbert shows clips of Lawler piledriving Andy Kaufman and claims that's what gave Kaufman cancer & killed him; (ANGLE) Gilbert announces Sam Lowe has had name legally changed to Sam Bass (an old Memphis legend); (From MID-SOUTH) Lawler/Brickhouse-Gilberts brawl w. Lawler burning Doug; King/Maggs d. Twilight Zone; Gaylord d. Dark Shadow but Lee/Harris/Downtown Bruno run in; Lee/Harris d. Hall/Raper. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - (MIDGETS) Mascarira Magrada/Aguilira Solitaria d. Piratita Morgan/Espectrito 2-3 falls; Octagon/El Misterioso/Justiciero d. Fuerza Guerrera/Jaque Mate/Pierroth Jr. 2 st. falls (2nd by DQ); Atlantis/Angel Azteca/Astro de Oro d. El Gran Markus Jr./Espectro Jr./Espectro de Ultratumba 2 st.; Los Hermanos Dinamita d. Salomon Grundy/Rayo de Jalisco Jr./ Vince Apollo 2-3 falls; Sangre Chicana/Ringo Mendoza/El Peraon d. Fabuloso Blondy (Ken Timbs)/MS I/Masakre 2 st. Brawl ensues w. Peraon bleeding buckets. RESTHOLD.

(ALL-JAPAN) - [8/26]: Akira Taue d. Richard Charland; Johnny Ace d. Rip Morgan; Jumbo Tsuruta/Masa Fuchi/Question Mark d. Kento Kobashi/Mitsuhara Misawa/Tsuyoshi Kikuchi. DRAW.

(NEW JAPAN) - [9/1]: (IWGP JR. HWT. TITLE) Pegasus Kid (Chris Benoit) d. Jushin Riger to win belt; (IGWP TAG TITLE) Keiiji Muto/Masa Chono d. Destruction Crew to retain belts. (IWGP HWT. TITLE) Riki Choshu d. Big Van Vader to win belt. POWERSLAM.

(LPWA) - [Syndication]: Misty Blue Simmes d. Bad Girl; Magnificent Mimi d. Judy Martin; Medusa Miceli d. LaGata. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [Cable]: Mimi d. Lelani Kai; Bad Girl d. Misty Blue Simmes when Bugaloo Brown interferes; Miceli d. Migada. BOMB-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - [Last Week]: Zebra Kid d. Sonny Rogers; Dream Warriors d. The Tyrant/Luscious Leroy King. BOMB.

(WINDY CITY) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Stormy Granzig draw vs. Gary Lawler; Terminator Riggs d. Crazy Horse. Texas Hangmen run in but Terminator Wolf saves. DOUBLE BOMB.

(ICW) - [REPEAT]: Roadblock d. Joe Cruel; Hoss d. Allen; Prime Time d. Chris Michaels; Hurricane d. Joe Phillips; Undertakers d. Dynamic Duo; Super Duper Mario d. Jose Vasquez. BOMB.

(CHI. CHAMPIONSHIP) - Terry Scholl d. Chip Barr; Tony DeVito d. Johnny Estrada; Reynolds Bros. d. Tim Kelly/Rocco Rizzo; DeVito d. Ray Fitzgerald. DOUBLE BOMB.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jim Ross, CLASH XII: "Paul E.'s a smart guy. He went two terms to Princeton. Of course, they were probably Ford's and Reagan's." 2. Stan Hansen, CLASH, on Top 10 ranking: "NUMBER SIX??? I've never been number six in anything. I wasn't number six to my wife!" 3. Teddy Long, NWA: "Gordon Solie, you're just about the same size as Ricky Morton, only you're better looking." 4. Long/Solie, WWW: (TL) "Talk about challenges. I gave my wife a challenge to either stay home or leave me. She answered that challenge. She left me." (GS) "I can understand why." 5. Jim Cornette, NWA PRO: "Teddy, your wife will come back to you when she finds out how much money you're making." 6. Roddy Piper/Vince McMahon, WWF: (V) "There's Bobby Heenan's ring. It says BH." (RP) "You mean it's not B.M.?" 7. Rick Rude, WWF: "With the size of the Boss-man's mother, I can understand why the toilets are always stopped up." 8. Eddie Gilbert, WMC: "I may run for President of the United States before it's over." 9. Ross/Bob Caudle, CLASH, on Sexton-Bambi match: (BC) "I understand the winner gets a dinner date with you, Jim." (JR) "The only way I'd agree to that is if you were the chaperone, Bob." 10. Piper, WWW: "There's Bobby Heenan doing what he does best: absolutely nothing."

11. Caudle, CLASH, on Hansen: "There are bears in the woods tamer than this guy." 12. Dutch Mantel, WWW: "If I were on JEOPARDY!, I'd say, 'Alex, I'll take FAMOUS CONFUSED WRESTLERS for $200.' The question would be, 'Who is Sting?'" 13. Vince McMahon, WWF: "I think the Honky Tonk Man's gone to a little 3-on-1 Oil on his hair." 14. Solie, NWA PRO: "The Steiners are indeed not typewriter champions." 15. Roddy Piper, WWF: "I beat Bobby Heenan up one time as Santa Claus and got fired for it." 16. Scott Steiner, WCW: "We were born standing up & talking back." 17. Gene Okerlund/Heenan, PTW: (GO) "I saw Nicholson wearing one of those Ultimate Warrior jackets." (BH) "Jack?" (GO) "No, Burt Nicholson, a guy who drives a cab in New York." 18. Heenan, PTW, to Okerlund: "Arrogance wouldn't do you any good. Maybe you should try Janitor in a Drum." 19. Bob Ray, NDP candidate for Ontario prime minister: "Last week, (current prime minister) Peterson was The Ultimate Warrior. This week, he's the Ultimate Worrier." 20. Ross, WCW: "Buddy Landell would make a great door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman. He'd talk his way in and talk his way out with a sale."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Jerry Lawler, WMC: "Eddie Gilbert, you're going to be in an ambulance before all of this is over." 2. Eddie Marlin, WMC, to Sam Lowe: "Sam Bass was a man. You're no part of a man." 3. Mantel, WWW: "I think everybody lives in New York ought to be taking out and bull-whipped." 4. Gene Okerlund, PTW, to Heenan: "I understand you've been rifling your men's payoffs."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - Ross/Caudle, CLASH: (JR) "What's Bambi's last name, Bob? Deer?" (BC) "That's spelled D-E-A-R, Jim."

SEXIST REMARK - Mantel, WWW: "Talking to you, Tony, is like talking to a woman. Makes no sense whatsoever."

REVISIONIST HISTORY - Gilbert, WMC: "Jerry Lawler created trauma throughout the body of Andy Kaufman. Trauma causes cancer to spread. After Lawler put all those piledrivers on this poor comedian, he died the next day of cancer."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. BABBLING IDIOT (Tony Schiavone on Mantel). 2. THE ULTIMATE CHICKEN (BRO. LUV on Warrior). 3. TARHEELIAN (Ross on JYD).

BEST PICTURES - 1. CLASH, Closeup on Sting's face when second Scorpion appears. 2. CLASH, Scott Steiner's DDT from top rope. 3. CLASH, Hansen destroying Zenk. 4. CLASH, Flair burying head after Luger clothesline. 5. CLASH, Flair railing Luger. 6. WWW, Callous throwing Dave Johnson over rail. 7. WWF, Bobby Heenan's "BH" ring. 8. WMC, Lawler throwing Gilbert four rows into the crowd at Mid-South.

BEST AUDIO - CLASH, Flair telling Luger during pre-match: "This is where I move from number 2 to number 1."

BEST SIGN - CLASH fan holding sign detailing Hansen's 3 Japan titles.

GROSSEST PICTURE - 1. CLASH XII, Stan Hansen drooling tobacco.

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - 1. CLASH, Lex Luger animated graphic goes to black before being supered over Lex's entrance.

BLOOPER AWARD - Ross, WCW, for saying Rock & Roll Express won first world tag team title from Ivan Koloff and NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV. Maybe Khrusher but Nikita died in the '60s.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Caudle, CLASH: "...the bigger they are, the harder they fall." 2. Mantel, WWW: "...only time will tell." 3. Steel, WWW: "...actions speak louder than words."

TUBE TALK

Did not get to go to the NWA show in Jackson Friday night. My weathercaster has been called up to active duty from the TN Army National Guard and I've had to play meteorologist.... Gene Okerlund is better on PTW with Heenan than Gorilla is... WWF comes to Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis Oct. 21.

Two weeks from now, we'll have a double issue. I'll be attending the Radio-Television News Directors Association convention in San Jose CA and will have to take a week off....John Arezzi's move to WBAB in New York got off to a hot start with Paul E. Sept. 2. I enjoyed sharing the show Sunday with Dave Meltzer and Wade Keller.

NWA show starts Saturday on WGN....Next week, we'll review SUNCOAST PRO WRESTLING, a show seen on cable in Florida....VWA HOTLINE, a cable wrestle/talk show, has resumed in Virginia. I don't know why someone in a major group hasn't picked up VWA's Axel Rotten. He's the kind of personality who could be the perfect agitator.

CLASH COMPETITION: As alluded to earlier, the CLASH cable opponents on two key cable networks Sept. 5 were enormous. The Mets-Pirates game on ESPN, which has exclusivity on baseball coverage Wednesday night, drew a huge 4.0 rating in 2.44 million homes, highest for baseball this year on ESPN. USA's John McEnroe match in the U.S. Open (which until Wednesday night had been drawing poor numbers on cable) posted a 2.7 in 1.45 million homes, which makes the 5.0/2.76 million for CLASH even more phenomenal.

WHERE WILL IT FINISH?: At the moment, CLASH XII stands as the top-ranked program on cable for the third quarter and its rank will probably be in the top five or seven, unless an early-season ESPN college game tops it. TNT's coverage of the NFL on Sunday nights will probably eclipse the CLASH rating easily every week of September.

BY THE QUARTER: All it would take is for one quarter hour of CLASH to score a 6.1 rating and that would be the most-watched 15 minutes of wrestling in the history of cable. We will have the quarter splits next week but unless the show got off to an unusually hot start (unlikely), either Flair-Luger or Sting-Scorpion probably drew as high as a 6.5, which would be in 3.64 million homes.

LOOKING BACK: One quick point: I've had a couple of letters alluding to a past column about a WCW match in 1983 between Mr. Wrestling II/Pez Whatley and Larry Zbyszko/Pez Whatley where II's mask was on the line, which drew a 6.8 rating. But that was when TBS was only in 22 million homes and also, cable competition was less intense. That match was, however, seen in 1.49 million homes. As for ROYAL RUMBLE I, it was seen in 3.11 million homes for its 8.2 rating on USA but its top quarter hour, during the RUMBLE itself (in 1988), was in 3.4 million, third to Funk-Flair (3.44 million) and Sting-Flair (CLASH I, 3.41 million).

FROM ATLANTA: Our spotters at the NWA TV tapings Monday night indicate a Ric Flair-Scott Steiner series was launched which I believe has potential of being one of the best singles matchups of the year, if Scott doesn't let up on the stuff he does with the jobbers. Also DOOM inched closer to babyface city with their battle against the Horsemen heating up.

TOP 10: Speaking of...I have to ask one or two questions about that top 10, which, if it generates discussion, WCW is all the happier: Rotunda & Horner are in the top 10--yet Horner loses a fall to the Master Blasters at the CLASH and the Blasters are not ranked. Also, Buddy Landell has lost consistently to Brian Pillman and fell to Rotunda at the CLASH, yet he's ranked 10th and Rotunda isn't in.

AND ON TAG TEAMS: And what about ranking "The Horsemen" as number 3? What Horsemen? Or is it any combination of the four?

QUIET TITANS: Not much on the Titan front. The group didn't restart its post-SLAM arena shows until this past weekend and advances were weak. Sama Simba (Tony Atlas) hasn't drawn a big reax outside of The Omni yet. Curtis Thompson appears on the next set of shows against Jim Powers and an upcoming PRIME TIME has Sgt. Slaughter-Ronnie Garvin.

MATWATCHING

BEST WISHES: Diane Devine's recent bulletin informed us all of the failing health of a memorable veteran, Ronnie Etchison, who is confined to a health care center in St. Joseph, MO. Etchison was on the first TV wrestling show I ever watched when he cracked a huge rock over the chest of Klondike Bill with a sledge hammer. We wish Ronnie the best.

DREADED GLITCH: Scott Decker of Hamden CT shared with us a local TV listing for CLASH XII, which stated "wrestling superstars Sting, Ric Flair and Norman compete for coveted titles." Norman???

SUNSHINE SHORTS: In the rotation of weekly PWF opponents, Steve Keirn beat Sgt. Rock to keep the Florida title Thursday night in Tampa. Jim Backlund beat Lou Perez in what must be their 37th match.

ANOTHER AFTERMATH: John Arezzi says he does not believe Sting was at fault in the fiasco over his autograph session at the FANS FANTASY WEEKEND in New York. Arezzi told MATWATCH he believes it was a p.r. foulup from within TBS and does not think Sting was ever made aware of the full conditions of the contract.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: A Lawler-Gilbert ambulance match was scheduled which will probably be a building-length brawl. The Gilberts vs. Lawler/Brickhouse brawl will qualify as a BEST TV BRAWL, since the bulk of it was shown on WMC.

ALSO MONDAY: A trash can grudge match between Brickhouse and Doug Gilbert, along with a USWA tag title defense between Gaylord/Jarrett and Lee/Harris. The two Jeffs won the USWA belts last Monday. In a couple of sidebars, Eddie Marlin faced Sam (Lowe) Bass in another gimmick bout and referee Frank Morrell went against Downtown Bruno.

MORE COMPETITION: Expect at least one competitive match on each NWA show and some added angles. They'll need it opposite ESPN and the networks' college football which does draw male viewers from wrestling when matchups are strong.

LPWA LATEST: Word has it from folks who were there that Chris Cruise and Ashley Kennedy were a formidable announce combo but a number of the matches were weak.

NEXT WEEK: I'll have a column on Page One concerning a veteran TV wrestling announcer which will include some words I feel need to be said. Not all will agree but I think some perspective needs to be offered.

TEXAS TORNADOS?: Saturday night on KTVT/Dallas, Toni Adams, posing as a USWA ring girl, sneaked up and pummeled Jeannie Clarke during an interview. And Kimala was back, looking a bit trimmer than before. Craig Johnson showed the Lawler-Gilbert car rundown and said doctors were "watching Lawler on an hour to hour basis." But not in Memphis.

GOODHART'S GOODIES: Joel Goodhart's AUTUMN ARMAGEDDON show Saturday night promises to be one of the top indie cards of the year. But Joel says despite the presence of Lawler, Gilbert and Cactus Jack on the show, the crowd will probably remember the heat from the locals on the show. You can get updates free from Joel at 1-800-C-RASSLIN.'

PINFALL PROFILE (Continued from Page 2)

***OLE ANDERSON DID A FIRST-RATE JOB OF BUILDING THE BLACK SCORPION ISSUE: no matter if you like or dislike the overall direction of the NWA, Anderson did a first-rate job of creating speculation over who the Scorpion really was. Even bulletin writers were searching for names and Jimmy the Greek would have laid odds on the various identities. The buildup was strong. And if it gets 'em in the tent, it matters not if the match was bad.

***FLAIR-LUGER: Some people argued that this feud was dead but I argued that with a different belt on the line and Luger as chasee, it put on a different twist and these two have rarely had a bad match since late 1988.

***WEEKEND TV RATINGS HAVE BEEN SOLID: With WCW averaging a 2.7 since Anderson's takeover as booker and NWA MAIN EVENT hitting a few 3s occasionally, a strong rating was no surprise. Tracking ratings since the beginning of these specials, the CLASHes draw ratings an average of 43% higher than the weekly Saturday show.

Creatively, this was not nearly up to par with most CLASH specials (although, just remember, friends, after the last CLASH, I had a phone call from an NWA insider telling me I "don't know beans about wrestling, television or journalism," so I don't know how much attention you can pay to me) but folks, it doesn't matter. MOUNTAIN MADNESS drew ratings and drew them in record numbers and that is the primary function of a CLASH. One can compare it to the anger people had at the finish of Flair-Luger at the 1988 Baltimore BASH. People yelled, "They've shot themselves in the foot." And the company turned around and drew $350,000 in business the following weekend. Perhaps fresh talent was a curiosity draw.

This CLASH served handsomely one of WCW's trifold purposes within TBS: drawing big numbers (and the cable competition was not shabby: a critical Mets-Pirates game on ESPN drew that network's largest baseball audience of the season and a John McEnroe U.S. Open tennis match on USA drew that network's highest numbers for the tournament) to draw advertisers to future shows.

Whether the other two purposes---a big sale for HALLOWEEN HAVOC and a good September in the arenas---have been accomplished will only be determined by gate receipts during the coming three to four weeks at the box office with Sting-Scorpion on top and whether fans really care who was in the second Scorpion outfit. The other key is whether the company can successfully combine the heat on the Scorpion with the heat on Sid for a Vicious-Sting HALLOWEEN HAVOC title match without confusing the focus, a difficult chore, to be sure.

But the bottom line for this CLASH, as Flair would say it, is in the audience numbers and they were huge. In TBS and WCW quarters, everything else does not matter.

RATINGS RAP

CLASH RUNS AWAY; NWA

WEEKEND SERIES REBOUND

Labor Day created havoc in the Nielsen computers and delayed quarter-hour readings on CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XII and WWF ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING from Sept. 2. But CLASH XII clearly dominated the Nielsens for the week ending Sept. 5.

The Monday night edition of WWF PRIME TIME WRESTLING, which had won nine consecutive weeks, was pre-empted for U.S. Open tennis coverage and the late Wednesday rating was unavailable, as were syndicated numbers. PTW faced its first head-on challenge with a regular season NFL MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL game this week.

POWER HOUR again dipped, despite the presence of Paul E. Dangerously, which lifted an otherwise lackluster session of PH. PH scored a 1.4/2.8 but improved the ratings of its 0.9 lead-in from the Atlanta Braves by 56%.

The bright spot of the weekly series came from the comeback registered on a holiday weekend by the two NWA/TBS series. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING rallied back for a 17% increase over its previous week, scoring a 2.8. NWA MAIN EVENT posted the same number, a jump of 22% over Aug. 26. For a 16-week period, Ole Anderson's Saturday shows are averaging a 2.7/6.9.

CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 5	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA CLASH XII (TBS 9/5)	5.0	8.4	2.76 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 9/1)	2.8	7.2	1.57 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/2)	2.8	7.2	1.57 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 8/31)	1.4	2.8	784,000
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 9/1)	0.5	5.5	280,000

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